



Montana Shooting Sports Association

P.O. Box 4924, Missoula, Montana 59806 - 406-549-1252 - mssa@mtssa.org

Asserting the Rights of Gun Owners in Montana

March 14, 2011

Representative Jeffrey Welborn
Montana House Fish, Wildlife and Parks Committee
Capitol Station
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Representative Welborn,

Senate Bill 135 will correct a very serious problem in Montana.

The Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks has arrogantly taken it upon itself to declare that people may not possess firearms when tracking wounded game animals with dogs.

We the people included the right to bear arms in the Montana Constitution at Article II, Section 12, specifically to prevent government interference with this important right. The Constitution says that the right to bear arms "shall not be called into question." If the drafters had been able to think of any stronger language to prevent government interference or tinkering, they would have used it.

Notwithstanding this firm reservation of right, FWP arrogantly believes it can jail or fine people for possessing firearms in certain situations it defines in regulation, without even bothering to seek legislative approval.

Besides being blatantly unconstitutional, FWP's regulation is ridiculous. How is the hunter supposed to dispatch a wounded animal when found? Is the hunter supposed to be denied his right to self defense when attacked by bears, lions or wolves drawn to the scent of wounded game? It's just stupid.

MSSA asks that you pass SB 135, for very good reasons.

Very sincerely,

Gary Marbut, President



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March 15, 2011

Representative Ted Washburn
Montana House Fish, Wildlife and Parks Committee
Capitol Station
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Representative Washburn,

MSSA supports SB 136.

If it hasn't happened to you personally, you probably know somebody whose child or children have had to leave Montana for work or college.

In Montana, we have a tradition to hunt together as families. That precious time sitting around the campfire in a high mountain elk camp is some of the most valuable time many parents will ever spend with their children.

Yet the high cost and unavailability of nonresident licenses makes it impossible for many Montana children to come home to share the traditional family hunting experience. This is about much more than meat on the table. It's about keeping in touch with our children, and keeping our children in touch with their roots, Montana and their extended family.

SB 136 would cost Montana very little but would be an important aid to our distinct Montana culture.

Please approve SB 136.

Very sincerely,

Gary Marbut, President